Amendments to the Claims

   This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

<div align="center"><u>Listing of the Claims</u></div>

   1. (Currently amended) A method (300) of configuring, in a router, a physical port

for coupling to a network, said method comprising:

     receiving (320) a message to configure said physical port for use with said

network;

     associating (325), responsive to receiving said message, a set of mapping

assignments for using said physical port to access said network; and

     implementing (330) said mapping assignments, responsive to associating said

mapping assignments, to configure said physical port for coupling to said network.

   2. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1, further comprising:

     storing (340) said mapping assignments.

   3. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said network is a Wide

Area Network (WAN).

   4. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said network is a

Local Area Network (LAN).

   5. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said network is a

Local Area Network (LAN) prior to said step of implementing (330) and is a Wide Area

Network (WAN) after said step of implementing (330).

   6. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is

implemented using an Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) SET command.

   7. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is

implemented using HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) data.

8. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is created after detecting at least one hardware switch setting change.

9. (Currently amended) The method (300) of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using a router proprietary command message.

10. (Currently amended) A router having a physical port for coupling to a network, said router comprising:

means for receiving (320) a message to configure said physical port for use with said network;

means for associating (325), responsive to receiving said message, a set of mapping assignments for using said physical port to access said network; and

means for implementing (330) said mapping assignments, responsive to associating said mapping assignments, to configure said physical port for coupling to said network.

11. (Currently amended) A router comprising:

processor, memory, and support circuitry (220) having a WAN/LAN port manager (225);

a LAN interface (130);

a WAN interface (135); and

a plurality of physical ports (240) selectively connectable to said LAN interface (130) or said WAN interface (135),

wherein said WAN/LAN port manager (225) controls whether each of said plurality of physical ports (240) is coupled to said LAN interface (130) or said WAN interface (135).

12. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said implementing step changes the physical port from a secure type physical port to a non-secure type physical port or from the non-secure type physical port to the secure type physical port.

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13. (New) The router of claim 10, wherein said implementing means changes the physical port from a secure type physical port to a non-secure type physical port or from the non-secure type physical port to the secure type physical port.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said implementing step changes the physical port from a WAN type physical port to a LAN type physical port or from the LAN type physical port to the WAN type physical port.

15. (New) The router of claim 10, wherein said implementing means changes the physical port from a WAN type physical port to a LAN type physical port or from the LAN type physical port to the WAN type physical port.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said implementing step alters an initial designation of the physical port by a manufacturer of the router as one of a LAN type port or a WAN type port to one of the WAN type port or the LAN type port, respectively.

17. (New) The router of claim 10, wherein said implementing means alters an initial designation of the physical port by a manufacturer of the router as one of a LAN type port or a WAN type port to one of the WAN type port or the LAN type port, respectively.